



**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **PSA condemns attack on educator by learner at JJ Tabane Secondary School, Ga Mphahlele**

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EMBARGO                                 None

ENQUIRIES                                communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly condemns a recent attack by a learner on an educator of JJ Tabane Secondary School at Hwelesane Village, Ga Mphahlele in Limpopo.

The Educator was hit in the face with hot porridge thrown by the learner. Educators are no longer safe in their workplaces in a clear violation of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, which places a legal responsibility on employers to provide workplaces that are safe and without risk to employees' safety.

There is a worrisome trend of learners attacking educators, which goes against civilized standards. Passionate, dedicated educators face abuse whilst deserve better. There is a need to nip this behaviour in the bud to restore their dignity. Learners need to respect educators and this behaviour should be condemned by all. Such attacks leave emotional scars on educators. Yet, these educators are still expected to continue with their duties and teach the very learners who disrespect them. Sadly, educators are constantly watching their backs and are afraid to discipline learners fearing attacks.

The PSA understands that the culprit left school before he could face the consequences of his actions. The MEC for the Limpopo Department of Education is urged to strengthen the campaign for educators' safety and provide the necessary support to traumatised educators. The departmental wellness must dispatch a team to provide educators with continuous counselling. The PSA further urges the Department to implement a multiparty and sector plan with parents, police, social workers, and other stakeholder working together to root out violence in schools in the province.

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